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March 27, 2002 LB 1095, 1309

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Madam President and members. would and I will...will speak to this, and I have already informed Senator Wehrbein that due to some drafting problems I will be withdrawing this at the end of my opening. But some comments were made earlier this morning about putting my oar in the water, so I thought, okay, what's going to be pretty close to what I think should happen, and I came up with something similar to the green copy. So I decided that that would be the path that I would take. And in the process of doing that, the committee amendments were struck, and within some of those committee amendments there are some things that I appreciate it to have, and because of the time restraints, we couldn't get it done. So from that standpoint, I will be withdrawing this in a moment. But the whole argument this morning was kind of interesting because I think I voted for about every cut up there, and I guess I view that as kind of like a big cruise ship. If we're all supposed to have our oars in the water, there are some people down below manning the engine, there's some people up at the captain's chair, you know, controlling the ship, and then there's some people making sure that the boat is actually propelled through the water, and that could be either through an oar or through an engine or whatever. And I guess there was some discussion within LB 1309 about what the committee could and couldn't do. They said, well, we can't touch this because there's no bill for that; we can't touch this because there's no bill for that. And some people might not know it, but LB 1095 is on General File. That was the proposed recommendation to change the Medicaid eligibility for Kids Now if I think back to the committee that I serve on, which is the Health Committee, and I'm still thinking that I'm a member of this boat trying to figure out which one I am, I voted not to kill the bill. I voted to reconsider the bill when the vote came up to reconsider the motion to kill, and then I voted to advance the bill. So you know, I think it's great that you can, you know, make the comments about different votes, but the reality is is that I wasn't happy with some of the things going on and that's the way that I voted. So as far as that goes, I think this is an interesting game, and I'll call it a game, because gamesmanship is a part of this process, but I think we're all rowing together in this boat. Some of us don't like the way the boat is heading, and some of us are trying to